

VICTORY

FLASHES

from MUHLENBERG

Number 53

January 26, 1945

Dear Fellows:

With this letter we end a year of correspondence with Muhlenberg men in the armed forces--1696 of you in all parts of the world and in practically every state in the Union. It is hard to believe that it is just a year ago that John Wagner shaved his moustache and laid aside his baggy and well-worn tweeds to trot out in his new blue suit with the brass buttons. But the calendar and the files tell us that a year has gone by and that this is the twenty-sixth bi-weekly letter we have written.

It's easier to believe when we look at what has happened. When John handed over the Service Roster it showed the names of 834 Muhlenberg men in the armed forces and that first letter we wrote--Wagner had written 27 of them during the preceding year or so--went to approximately 650 men whose addresses we then had on file. Today's letter will go to 1,650 Muhlenberg men whose addresses we are reasonably sure are correct.

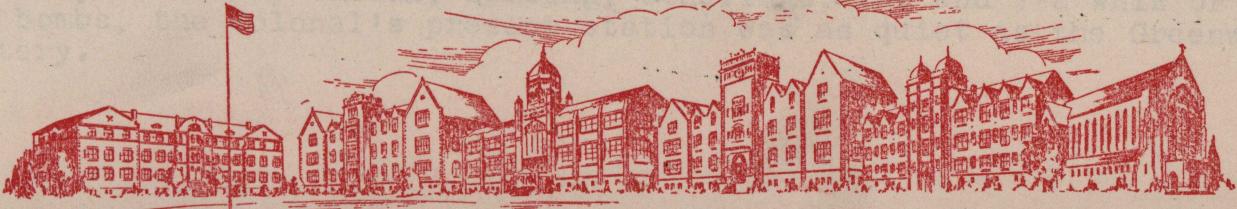
We're hoping, and we know you are too, that before the next year rolls around all mail from Muhlenberg will reach all of you at home. Perhaps that's asking for too much, but we do hope--and pray too--that before that time rolls around all the battles will have been won and that you can at least think of coming home.

Talking about home coming, CAPTAIN WALTER FIERS '40 and his wife (Andy Wood, formerly of the Alumni Office staff) dropped in here yesterday. Walter, who took part in the invasion of France, has been hospitalized in this country for the past five months and is back in civilian clothes, retired for physical causes. Next month he returns to his job with the Corn Products Company in New York.

Joining Walter very shortly will be EARL RITTER '29 who is being retired to the sidelines by a recurrence of the heart condition that laid him low several months ago. According to our present information he is at MacDill Field, Fla. where his discharge will become effective on February 1. He expects to spend the next month or two at his home in Pennsbury and then, his health permitting, will return to his teaching job at the Nazareth High School.

It's good to be able to report that the basketball team continues to win. After we defeated Villanova Wednesday night, for the second time this year by a score of 46 to 22, the record stood at 15 victories against the single defeat by Temple. Once again Muhlenberg is mentioned as one of the teams being considered for the National Invitational Tournament at Madison Square Garden. Teams being mentioned, according to the United Press, are St. John's, the winner for the past two years; City College of New York, Akron, DePaul, Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky, Bowling Green, Hamline, Valparaiso, and Muhlenberg. Of course, there are ten more games to go in our own schedule and in basketball anything can happen.

After the defeat by Temple we came right back to take the measure of Franklin and Marshall 62 to 33; Swarthmore 46 to 33 for the second win of the season against that team; the United States Marines of Phil-



delphia 46 to 40; and finally Villanova for the second time 46 to 22.

Tonight we play Lehigh at Bethlehem in the season's second game with the Engineers; tomorrow night it's Albright in Allentown. Then follows Bucknell at Lewisburg on January 31 and in Allentown on February 3; the University of Pennsylvania in a return game in Allentown, February 7, and Columbia in a return game in New York on February 10. If we can keep up our winning streak through those games, the chances for a Garden bid will be better.

We have been reminded by several of you fellows that we have neglected to tell you about wrestling. Well at the moment, with six of the eight scheduled meets completed, the record shows two victories, three defeats, and one tie. We won over Princeton 21 to 15 and Swarthmore 23 to 13, while the match with Ursinus on Wednesday night ended in an 18 to 18 tie. Lehigh took us into camp 23 to 13, West Point 29 to 5, and Bucknell 21 to 12. Tomorrow we wrestle the Naval Academy team and on February 3 go to the mat with Lehigh. There are possibilities of a few more meets before Coach Frankett's boys end the season.

In the last letter we told you that the commanding officer of our V-12 unit had just been promoted to the rank of commander. Now we'll have to report that Commander Douthit has been detached from the station and assigned as Director of Training in the Fifth Naval District with headquarters in Norfolk. He has been succeeded at Muhlenberg by Lieutenant W.D. Greulich, executive officer of the station since last March. A new executive officer is expected to report about the middle of February.

Once again we'll have to tell you that another gold star has been added to our service flag. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WARREN LINDGREN, who came to Muhlenberg in July 1943 as a member of the Class of 1947, was killed in action in Belgium on January 10. His home was in Camp Hill. His father is the director of public relations of Pennsylvania's Selective Service System.

If it hadn't been time for a service letter anyway, I think we would have sent you a telegram or a cable announcing that PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRUCE N. BAUMAN '42, veteran of twenty-seven months in the South Pacific has been conquered at last. He was married in Maryland on January 15 to Marion M. Stillman of Philadelphia. Some of you medics may know her; she has been a telephone operator at the Hahnemann hospital. Bauman puts it this way; "Strange as it may seem, I have found someone with enough stamina to put up with me for the rest of our natural lives." And to that we can only add--what stamina she must have. The last sentence is for the special benefit of Bauman and his cousin Henry. The rest of you fellows can skip it. Incidentally, Bruce is now on guard duty at the Navy building in Washington, hobnobbing with the Big Shots.

We've also heard, by way of the newspapers, that LIEUTENANT (j.g.) CHUCK KEIM '42 has tied himself up (engagement only) to Eunice Faye Minner who teaches English and Spanish (Keim can speak both) at the Catasauqua High School. After 20 months of service in the Mediterranean theatre, Chuck came home for a 30-day leave. The engagement of Pauline Frankenfield of Allentown to SEAMAN FIRST CLASS JOE CHIPSER of V-12 fame has also been announced.

Before we forget, the Biology Department is on the prowl. TECHNICAL SERGEANT WARREN MACK '42 sent his former teachers some microscopic slides of tropical diseases. They'd like to suggest that if any of you medics in the South Pacific run across a few others they could make good use of them in medical entomology and parasitology--and we hope the spelling is correct.

It has taken us a long time to get into the mail bag and it really is loaded for this little trip. We thought we were getting something when LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEE ISREALL '33, now in Holland, sent us a 50,000 mark note. Then we discovered that except for our collection--and that's why he sent it--it was practically worthless. Except for a few heavy artillery shells, bombing, strafings, V-1 and V-2 whiz or buzz bombs, the Colonel's present station was as quiet as the Greenwood cemetery.

LIEUTENANT ARLAN BOND '42, who has been fighting with the First Army since D Day, is in a hospital in England with both feet frozen. The former football manager was a prisoner of the Germans for three days and as many nights, but managed to escape through the lines to reach an American first aid post on December 21. He spent Christmas in a hospital in France and on December 29 was transferred by air to England where he's in good hands--yes, very good hands. Ask him about the English RAF officer who visits him. SHE's a communications officer

CAPTAIN FREDERICK R. BAUSCH '31, who hit the beachheads in Southern France on D Day has been with the Seventh Army in France since that time. Another of the medics somewhere in the ETO is LIEUTENANT BILL GRASLEY '39, who was cheered by the headlines the STARS AND STRIPES have been giving to Muhlenberg's basketball team. There'll be some headlines in the March issue of the Alumni Magazine and they'll appear over a story by PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RALPH BAGGER '45 in which he gives his observations of an Armistice Day celebration he witnessed in the Forest of Compiegne. SERGEANT DICK KINARD '43, another of the boys in the ETO stationed somewhere in England, often thinks how pleasant it would be to exchange stories across the table at the Whitehouse (the Allentown establishment) or to quietly read a book on philosophy in the Muhlenberg Library. He admits there's quite a difference between the two.

Over in Burma, CAPTAIN PAUL FATZINGER '31 managed to scrape enough scrap together to build a club, including a large fireplace in which his men burned the traditional yule log on Christmas Day. Although PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERT G. STAHL '43 is stationed in Hawaii, he had to wait until the November issue of the Alumni Magazine arrived to learn that his classmate, LIEUTENANT MAURICE HORN '44, had been married in Hawaii. He did, however, manage to meet ENSIGN TOM MILLER '44 on the beach at Waikiki. Since we last saw LIEUTENANT (j.g.) DICK GOTTLIEB '41 he was torpedoed at Saipan, took part in the Palau invasion, helped MacArthur land in the Philippines, and participated actively in the second battle of the Philippine Sea. But the most exciting part of it all was a reunion with his brother, ENSIGN DAVE GOTTLIEB '44 at a South Pacific base. Dick is on one of the big battlewagons and Dave is on an LST.

CAPTAIN CARL PROEHL '39, still somewhere in the Pacific, says that strange as it may seem the past year has gone by very rapidly. He's hoping that the next stretch will go just as quickly but, if it is no worse than the last year has been, he'll have no complaints. LIEUTENANT COMMANDER J.A. HOUSTON '36 spent two years in the China, Philippine, and Australian areas before the war, but since hostilities began he has been in the North Atlantic where normally it's about 70 degrees too cold. He is in command of a Navy Tanker. Although the whereabouts of SEAMAN SECOND CLASS JOE SHANOSKY '43 have been censored, he has a New York FPO address. TECHNICAL SERGEANT MARNE CLARK '40 is still in Belgium, getting mighty anxious about that ride he's going to take down the main street of Berlin.

SEAMAN FIRST CLASS EDWARD JONES '46 is somewhere in the Mariannas and his letters sing praises to the outstanding work of the Seabees. That's a note that should make CHAPLAIN LUTHER GERHART '22 happy once again. And talking about the Seabees reminds us of the letter we had from ENSIGN EARL RUPPERT '44 who is supply officer for a Seabee unit in Southern England where, in looking over the papers of a former supply officer, he found papers signed by ENSIGN DICK HOLBEN '44. Gene says his base and quarters are so attractive and homelike that he's afraid he'll get homesick if he stays too long.

We've been taken severely to task by ENSIGN DENNY WEBSTER '44. In the first place he's not roaming the South Pacific but is (or was on January 3) on a sub-relief crew at a base out there. In the second place, submarines normally don't operate with a task force. In the third place, when we talked about EUGENE KERTIS '44 we spelled his last name the way a former vice-president spelled his. We bow low, Denny, and thanks for checking up on us. Denny says that where he is the girls are almost up to American par and that personally he has found one quite up to par. RADIOMAN THIRD CLASS QUENTIN ZELL '43 is at sea. He told

us so himself and he says a very long trip is ahead. We believe PHARMACIST MATE SECOND CLASS JACK DOOLIN '35 is at sea--at least he has a San Francisco FPO address. For the first time in his eleven months in New Guinea, CAPTAIN DONALD FRY '37 met one of his classmates CAPTAIN BOB PETERS '37 who is over there with the medics. Their New Year's Eve party included a few cans of beer, a midnight snack borrowed from the mess hall, a few shots and flares and whistles from the ships in the harbor.

SERGEANT WILLARD H. HAAS '39, who has been serving with a medical battalion, was wounded in action on the Western Front on December 11 and was awarded the Purple Heart. He is recuperating in a hospital in France. SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN GROSS '44, pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress, has been awarded an oak leaf cluster to the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in bombing attacks on Nazi targets. FIRST LIEUTENANT JULIUS KREUZER '45, who has been overseas since April 1944, has flown more than 55 combat missions with his B-26 Marauder Group and has been awarded the fifth Oak Leaf cluster for his Air Medal. He and his group recently were cited for the French Croix de Guerre and have received the War Department's Distinguished Unit citation for outstanding tactical support during operations over Italy.

CORPORAL RAYMOND HEFTER '44 is stationed in Italy and while he says his quarters aren't exactly like the Astor, they are a great deal more comfortable than many he has seen. Over in Paris, SERGEANT CARL RITTER '30 got together with HENRY SCHEIRER '29, a Red Cross Field Director. They may run into CORPORAL BILL OSWALT '47, another of the Muhlenberg men who recently has written to us from France. But talking about meetings, MAJOR PHILIP D. PARKINSON '39, now stationed in France, had two unusual ones while he was back in England just after Christmas. Just before the first curtain for "Strike it Again," he walked into FIRST LIEUTENANT RAY BERGENSTOCK '38. When the curtain went down for intermission, he looked down the aisle and there, big as life, was CORPORAL ADAM MATUSA '39 with a date. After the show Adam ditched his date in a hurry and he and Phil had a good old get-together. Their only regret was that the meeting didn't take place in Allentown. Phil, incidentally, has been overseas for three years. FIRST LIEUTENANT VASCO FENILI '40 has just gone overseas, at least we just received a New York APO address for him.

A card from CAPTAIN MAL PAUL '40 indicates that he is in Holland. Believe it or not, but TUSS BECKER '43, still in India, says it will be a pleasure to hit the books when this mess is over. He enclosed some interesting pictures in his last letter and there are indications that even in India he is enjoying himself. LIEUTENANT ART FIERRO '44 is in the Southeast Pacific. He can't say where, but wherever he is he has little time to himself. CHAPLAIN TOM RICHTER '38 has started his "all-expenses paid" cruise with a San Francisco FPO address. Another Muhlenberg man overseas in the South Pacific is CORPORAL JOE FRIEDMAN '33. LIEUTENANT LES WOLFF '35 has shifted from the Atlantic to the Pacific and is first lieutenant, damage, control officer, Ship's troop quartermaster, and cargo officer on the first of a new type of ship. In the bull sessions in which LIEUTENANT BILL DOABLER '38 participates, he tells the boys about Muhlenberg and its great team. He's another of the Navy men with a San Francisco FPO designation. YEOMAN THIRD CLASS WAYNE HOLBEN '44 is getting back on his feet over in England after a siege of pneumonia. His brother, ENSIGN BOB HOLBEN '42 visited him over Christmas. Air raids over Leyte have diminished greatly, according to the latest report from that front from LIEUTENANT CHARLIE TRINKLE '42.

Here are a few promotions: SECOND LIEUTENANT JOSEPH R. KASPERSKI '44; SECOND LIEUTENANT EARL G. SYMONS '44; SECOND LIEUTENANT HENRY T. BAIETTI '44; ENSIGN JAMES D. WILDER '45; SECOND LIEUTENANT WILLIAM E. YOUNG '45; CAPTAIN MALVIN E. PAUL '40; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FRANK E. EYE '44; and CAPTAIN DONALD F. FRY '37.

Sorry we reached the bottom of the page without completing the list of promotions and without telling you about the boys still in service in the States. But we'll be writing to you in two more weeks. Until then--and always--nothing but good luck to you.

Sincerely,

Gordon

Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office